

REMARKS

The undersigned is grateful to the Examiner for taking the time to discuss this case.

The present response amends claim 1 and requests reconsideration of the rejected claims. Claims 1-29 and 35-40 are presently pending.

Claims 1-29 and 35-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as allegedly being obvious based on WO 93/13179 (WO '179). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

This rejection has previously been traversed on the basis that the claims are directed to first forming a coating of A and then applying B. This is in contrast to the reference which applies A and B together.

To emphasize this distinguishing aspect of the claimed invention, claim 1 is amended herein to recite that a coating of a single film-forming polymer is formed, wherein the single film-forming polymer consists essentially of film-forming polymer A, and that, thereafter, a layer of B is applied. The amendment clarifies the previously claimed distinction of forming (as opposed to simply applying) a coating of A and then applying a layer of B and, thus, does not narrow the scope of the claim.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims overcome the rejection.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. E. Parker', is written over a horizontal line.

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